

Dear Reader,

At the beginning of the semester, I was really unsure of what I was going into. I have not touched a book since middle school, so I was not enthusiastic about taking the class. The reason I have not been reading books is that school took the love of books out of me. Growing up, I always had my head buried in books, but when we were assigned to read in class and told to write essays about it, my love for reading diminished. In the first few classes, we had meaningful discussions in class and I really enjoyed that aspect of this class. However, going completely asynchronous made me lose motivation and connection with the class altogether.

The strength of my Breakthrough narrative is that I was able to question why I had stopped reading books. It gave me the opportunity to do a deep reflection on my past and come to terms with the seriousness of not reading. On my journey of self-reflection, I decided to pick up some books on my own time outside of class. However, I found my heart was not in it. I gave it one last shot, but this time listening to audiobooks. Instantly, I felt this connection come back to me that I thought I had lost. I found myself staying up dangerously late listening to audiobooks. Two books I was able to finish were “How to win friends and influence people” and “Cracking the coding interview.” One weakness of my Breakthrough narrative is that I did not have the proper camera and script prepared to get good body language in the frame. It is very important to speak properly and communicate your message, but that is just half the fight. One must also have good body language to capture the interest of the audience. My Breakthrough narrative was a bit lacking in that regard.

From the beginning of this class the professor and other students are amazing. I plan to continue to do well in this class as a critical thinker, researcher, writer, and one who gives back to the community by participating in volunteer work for local nonprofit organizations. I will

continue to be a reader because this coursed rekindled my love for literature in the form of audiobooks. Finally, I plan to spread the education and share the books with other fellow students and community members alike.

Thank you for tuning in,

Jawad Hanif